

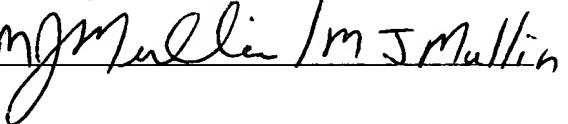
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) Bicek et al. Examiner: Nguyen, V.X.
Serial No.: 09/974,653 Group Art Unit: 3731
Confirmation No.: 9912 Docket: 760-49 RCE
Filed: October 10, 2001 Dated: November 3, 2004
For: STENT DESIGN WITH
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MEMBERS

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P.O. Box 1450
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Signed: 

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action of June 15, 2004 and the Advisory Action of October 4, 2004, and in connection with the concurrently-submitted Request for Continued Examination (RCE), please amend the above-identified application prior to further examination.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.